

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-14 NSC-10 RSR-01 /104 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9546

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 2826

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1569

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MOPS, SP, NO, NL, BE, DA

SUBJECT: NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO BARCELONA

REF: A. STATE 5368

B. OSLO 1152

C. HAGUE 1368 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: EVEN IF NORWEGIANS PERSIST IN EXPRESSING
OPPOSITION TO NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO BARCELONA, MISSION
RECOMMENDS THAT PROPOSAL BE FORWARDED TO MC AND THENCE
TO DPC FOR APPROVAL BY " SILENCE PROCEDURE". END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION SEEKS STATE DEPARTMENT DIRECTION ON NEXT MOVE
ON NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO BARCELONA.

2. FROM REFTELS A AND B, IT APPEARS THAT THE NORWEGIANS
MAY OBJECT TO SILENCE PROCEDURE IN DPC. NETHERLANDS MAY
TAKE SAME POSITION AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT IN
THE HAGUE. IF THE QUESTION IS DEBATED IN DPC, DANES AND
BELGIANS MAY BE DIFFICULT.

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3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT SACEUR PROCEED TO NOTIFY
MILITARY COMMITTEE OF PROPOSED NAVOCFORMED VISIT AND THAT

SIMULTANEOUS EFFORTS CONTINUE HERE, IN WASHINGTON, AND IN OSLO TO PERSUADE NORWEGIANS TO WITHHOLD OBJECTION. PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS IN DPC ARE LIKELY TO WORSEN, NOT IMPROVE, WITH DELAY. FURTHER, THE MC HAS ASKED (MC 204) THAT PROPOSALS FOR VISITS TO NON- NATO PORTS BE PUT FORWARD TO THE MC AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. REQUEST SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE BEEN PLACED BEFORE THE MC FOUR MONTHS AGO. FURTHER DELAY INCREASES THE DIFFICULTY OF SECURING DESIRED ACTION HERE. FINALLY, WE ASSUME CINCSOUTH REQUIRES TIME FOR OPERATIONAL PLANNING, WHICH IS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT.

4. USNATO RECOGNIZES THAT DPC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO BARCELONA GIVES PROMISE OF BEING DIVIDED. INDEED IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT THIS US- SPONSORED INITIATIVE, IN WHICH DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, SEVERAL AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN EUROPE AND USNATO HAVE INVESTED EFFORT AND USG PRESTIGE, WILL NOT SUCCEED. WASHINGTON MAY DECIDE TO ALLOW NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE " POCKET VETO" BY ALLOWING PROPOSAL TO DIE AT SHAPE AND THUS AVOID CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE IN NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE AND DPC. IF WASHINGTON DECIDES ON THAT COURSE, WE AT USNATO SEE LITTLE PROSPECT THAT US WILL LATER SUCCEED IN IMPLEMENTING MORE AMBITIOUS FOLLOW- ON MEASURES (LISTED IN USNATO 5390 12/14/72) WHICH ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO.

5. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO ISOLATE NORWAY IN MILITARY COMMITTEE AND DPC, WE BELIEVE THE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS WOULD BE GOOD. BUT THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT WHEN NORWEGIANS RAISE THEIR OBJECTIONS, SEVERAL OTHER ALLIES (DENMARK, ICELAND, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, FOR EXAMPLE) WILL RESERVE THEIR POSITIONS OR ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES EXPLICITLY WITH NORWEGIANS. IN THAT EVENT, IN CONFORMITY WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY SECRETARY ROGERS AND SECRETARY LAIRD AT LAST DECEMBER' S MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, US WILL HAVE MADE SERIOUS AND MAXIMUM EFFORT -- EVEN IF UNSUCCESSFUL -- TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE. SERIOUSNESS OF US PURPOSE WILL REGISTER IN NATO CAPITALS (AND MADRID); US REP IN MILITARY COMMITTEE AND US PERMREP IN DPC CAN IN THOSE FORA REAFFIRM WASHINGTON' S INTENTION TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS
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TO IMPROVE SPAIN- NATO COOPERATION AT THE MILITARY LEVEL; SECRETARY ROGERS AT JUNE NAC AND SECRETARY RICHARDSON AT JUNE DPC WILL THEN BE IN POSITION TO MAKE FORMAL STATEMENTS TO MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES ALONG SAME LINE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN SUM USNATO RECOMMENDS REFERRAL OF FORMAL VISIT REQUEST BY SACEUR TO MC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND APPROVAL TO COMMENCE SILENCE PROCEDURE IN DPC ON THIS SUBJECT.
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